




Risca Urban District Council

Medical Officer's &
Public Health Inspector's

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR
1966



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RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman — Councillor A. S. R. WEST, J.P.

Vice-Chairman — Councillor A. G. LEAMAN.

Members of the Council

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Councillor J. G. Betty, M.B.E.

Councillor W. J. Chivers

Councillor W. J. Cooper

Councillor F. Dolman

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Councillor W. Jones

Councillor W. H. Jones

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Councillor W. L. Randall

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Councillor J. M. Woodward

Councillor F. A. Wright

Clerk of the Council

T. L. Cowlin, F.C.C.S.

Engineer and Surveyor

O. Parry Morgan, M.I.Mun.E.

Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer

Roy Emmott, A.I.M.T.A.

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

Glyn M. Jenkins, A.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Risca Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District for the year ended 31st December, 1966. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular (M.O.H.) No. 3/1967.

SECTION "A" STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA

Area of the District (in acres)	...	...	4,199
Population 1966	...	...	15,830
Rateable Value	...	...	£329,793
Sum represented by 1d. rate (estimated)	...	...	£1,210

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	20.39
The Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	17.7
The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was	...	17.88

Infant Mortality

	Total	Males	Females
Death of Infants under 1 year	10	7	3
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births	30.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.09
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Death Rate for County of Monmouth	13.59
Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth	24.99
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales	19.00

Ages at death of Children under 1 year

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	...	8
1-2 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	-
2-3 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	-
3-4 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total under 1 month						8
1-3 months	...	...	...	...	...	1
3-6 months	...	...	...	...	...	-
6-9 months	...	...	...	...	...	1
9-12 months	...	...	...	...	...	-
Total under 1 year						10

There are no special causes of sickness during the year which need reporting on. The general conditions of health were good.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	17
Coronary disease, angina	29	23
Hyper-tension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	7	9
Other circulatory disease	8	7
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	6	4
Bronchitis	6	2
Other disease of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-

	M	F
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortions	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	10	10
Motor vehicles accidents	-	-
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	
All causes	96	89
	<hr/>	

Social Conditions

The chief Industries carried on in this Area are coal-mining, quarrying and printing, and, the manufacturing of plastics and bricks. Two firms are engaged in scrap metal recovery work.

The John Cashmore Warehouse at the Rhynys Field was commenced in July and completed in December.

SECTION " B "

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. *Public Health Officers of the Authority.* One Medical Officer of Health and one Public Health Inspector (whole-time Officers).

2. *Hospital Services.* Hospital Services are administered by the Regional Hospital Board as and from 5th July, 1948.

The Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for administering the following services under Part III of the Act:—

- (a) Care of Mothers and Young Children
- (b) Midwifery Services
- (c) Health Visiting
- (d) Home Nursing
- (e) Vaccination and Immunisation
- (f) Ambulance Services
- (g) Prevention of Illness (Care and After-Care)
- (h) Domestic Help Scheme
- (i) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment and Mental Deficiency Acts.

SECTION " C "

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water Supplies*

In 1962 the Abertillery and District Water Board laid an 18" water main from a point near Moriah Chapel along Park Road and Gelli Avenue, through Ty-Sign to the new reservoir being constructed at the Gribbath.

This reservoir was completed during the year 1964 and has a storage capacity of three million gallons. The Board is receiving one million gallons of water a day from this reservoir and the effect of this is that all parts of our area, served by the Board, are now receiving an adequate supply of water.

2. *Drains and Sewerage*

In 1961 a new 15-inch diameter subsidiary foul sewer, 1,000 yards long was laid from the Ty-Sign Housing Site to the main trunk sewer in Commercial Street at Mill Street Junction.

A 48 inch storm water sewer was also laid from the site to the Rhynys Field Brook.

Lengths of sewers were constructed on the Gelli Park Estate and connections made to the Council's main site sewers.

During the year the work of diverting the Rhynys Brook was completed. This involved the laying of 130 yards run of 40 inch diameter and 46 yards run of 18 inch diameter concrete tubes.

3. *Rivers and Streams*

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

The Administration of the above Act so far as the rivers Ebbw and Sirhowy are concerned is vested in the Usk River Board.

Any complaints received are forwarded to the Officers of the Board for such action as they consider necessary.

In the past swabs have been laid in the Sirhowy at Nine Mile Point and in the river Ebbw at Pontywain and Tanybryn.

On examination of the swabs the organisms Salmonella Typhimurium and Salmonella Paratyphoid B have been isolated, which is an indication that sewage is being discharged into the rivers.

Chemical pollution of the river is also taking place and in this respect the steelworks at Ebbw Vale is no doubt the main offender.

Until these rivers have been brought to a satisfactory standard of purity they must always be regarded as a potential source of danger to public health.

4. *Closet Accommodation*

Particulars will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

5. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area*

A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

6. *Shops*

The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Public Health Inspector and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

7. *Smoke Abatement*

Complaints regarding the emission of smoke, chiefly from local industries are received from time to time. Appropriate action is taken to deal with these complaints as they arise.

A lead peroxide candle to measure the amount of sulphur trioxide in the atmosphere was installed at "The Mount", Penrhiw in September, 1960, as part of a scheme agreed by local authorities in South Monmouthshire to measure possible atmospheric pollution from the Spencer Steelworks at Llanwern.

Monthly reports as to the amounts of sulphur trioxide have been received from Dr. James, the Public Analyst.

During the year the highest reading was 1.23 m.g. of sulphur trioxide (S.03) collected by 100 sq. cm. of lead peroxide per day and the lowest 0.24 m.g.

I consider the results for the year to be quite satisfactory.

The following is a record of the readings taken from the candle since it was fixed in September, 1960:—

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
January		0.77	0.75	0.48	0.92	0.94	1.23
February		0.68	0.67	1.47	1.08	0.77	0.98
March		1.03	0.60	0.86	0.85	0.99	0.50
April		0.56	0.68	0.43	0.68	0.60	0.58
May		0.46	0.43	0.48	0.21	0.57	0.41
June		0.42	0.26	0.23	0.26	0.43	0.30
July		0.40	0.32	0.43	0.19	0.30	0.37
August		0.27	0.23	0.37	0.38	0.30	0.50
September	0.32	0.38	0.39	0.56	0.40	0.53	0.24
October	0.48	0.39	0.70	0.49	0.46	0.71	0.59
November	0.60	0.73	0.71	0.68	1.92	0.41	0.51
December	0.80	0.94	1.07	1.00	0.85	0.64	0.55

8. Longbridge Swimming Baths

Samples of water were taken from the Bath and submitted to the laboratory for analysis. The samples were found to be satisfactory.

9. Eradication of Bed Bugs and Vermin

28 houses were found to be infested with bugs, beetles or other vermin. In each case complete eradication was effected by means of spraying with D.D.T. insecticide.

SECTION " D "

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	54
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	168
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose ...	-
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in full respects fit for human habitation ...	...

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	37
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year*

(a) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	-
---	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
---	-----	-----	---

(a) By Owners

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	37
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	-
--	---

(a) By Owners	-
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	-
---	---

(c) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	-
---	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
--	-----	-----	---

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

4. *Housing Act, 1957. Overcrowding*

(a) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	-
---	-----	---

(c) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief	-
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

SECTION " E "

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) *Milk Supply*.—Samples of milk have been taken and examined for bacterial content, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Public Health Inspector's Report.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods*.—For Action taken with regard to Meat and other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Public Health Inspector's Report.

(c) *Adulteration*.—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food*.—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e) *Nutrition*.—No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION " F "

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Where necessary all cases of Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Public Health Inspector on receipt of notification from the local Doctors.

The method of procedure with regard to immunisation has recently been amended. Now we are giving three injections each containing anti Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

Where it is found that a person has had Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Tetanus only are given. Occasionally an injection against Tetanus alone is given.

The following are particulars relating to immunisation and vaccination carried out during the year 1966, in respect of the Council's area.

VACCINATION OF PERSONS UNDER AGE 16 COMPLETED DURING 1966

TABLE 1—

Completed Primary Courses—Number of persons under age 16

Type of Vaccine or Dose			Year of Birth					Others	Total	
								under age 16		
			1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-1962			
1.	Quadruple DTPP		...	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
2.	Triple DTP	...	...	77	114	7	2	5	1	206
3.	Diphtheria/Pertussis		...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
4.	Diphtheria/Tetanus		...	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
6.	Pertussis	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
7.	Tetanus	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	3

TABLE 2—Reinforcing Doses—Number of persons under age 16

Type of Vaccine or Dose			Year of Birth					Others	Total
								under age 16	
			1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-1962		
1.	Quadruple DTPP	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
2.	Triple DTP	...	—	61	77	7	40	—	185
3.	Diphtheria/Pertussis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
4.	Diphtheria/Tetanus	...	—	—	—	—	10	2	12
5.	Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
6.	Pertussis	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
7.	Tetanus	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	3

*Smallpox Vaccination**Primary Injections*

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	73
2 — 4 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	26
5 — 14 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
15 and over ...	...	...	...	...	...	-

Re-Vaccination

Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	-
1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	-
2 — 4 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
5 — 14 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	-
15 and over ...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

I give below details of the Poliomyelitis Vaccinations which were carried out in the Risca area during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

RISCA:—

PART I. Persons completing primary immunisation

Number of persons who
have received third dose
of oral vaccine

(a) Children born in 1966 ...	...	...	...	...	24
(b) Children born in 1965 ...	...	...	...	...	141
(c) Children born in 1964 ...	...	...	...	...	19
(d) Children born in 1963 ...	...	...	...	...	6
(e) Children and young persons born in years 1949-1962 ...	...	...	...	...	9
(f) Young persons born in years 1933-1942 ...	...	...	...	...	0
(g) Others ...	...	...	...	...	5
(h) Total ...	...	...	...	...	204

PART II. Persons receiving reinforcing doses

(a) Children born in years 1958-1961 ...	...	...	160
(b) Children born in years 1949-1957 ...	...	...	4

Total 164

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1								
1- 5								
5-15	1							
15-25		1						
25-35								
35-45								
45-65			1					
65 and over								
Total	1	1	1					

Inspections of Factories and Workshops

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
Factories with Mechanical Power	9	-	-
Factories without Mechanical Power	-	-	-
	9	-	-

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Refer to H.M. Insp.	Prose- cutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences ...	—	—	—	—
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective...	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—

I am, your obedient Servant,

K. P. GILES.

Risca Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December, 1966

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year

Exterior

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	16
External walls repaired or repointed	5
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	4
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	12
Rainwater downpipes repaired or renewed	6
Chimney stacks repaired	4

Interior

Floors repaired or renewed	7
Windows repaired or renewed	5
Walls replastered	10
Ceilings replastered	4
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	1
Window cords fixed	12

Drainage

Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	6
Flush pipe repaired or renewed	1
Burst water pipes repaired	8
Seats repaired or renewed	2
Drains repaired	10
Inspection Chambers repaired and provided with covers	12
New waste pipes fixed	1
New pedestal pans provided and fixed	8

FOOD INSPECTION

The following are particulars of meat and other foodstuffs surrendered and destroyed as unfit for human consumption during the year :—

FROZEN FOODS

7 Cod Steaks	...	...	...	...	All condemned due to
8 Crinkle Cut Chips	...	...	...	..	breakdown of refrigerator
10 Buttered Kippers	...	...	...	..	..

					All condemned due to breakdown of refrigerator	
3	Cheeseburgers	...	...	...	"	"
6	Fish Sticks	...	...	...	"	"
8	Kipper Fillets	...	...	...	"	"
46	Fish Fingers	...	...	...	"	"
3	Salmon Fish Cakes	...	...	...	"	"
15	Plaice Fillets	...	...	...	"	"
10	Steaklets	...	...	...	"	"
8	Cod Fillets	...	...	...	"	"
9	Beef Burgers	...	...	...	"	"
6	Sponges	...	...	...	"	"
2	Braised Beef Slices	...	...	...	"	"
4	Chocolate Eclairs	...	...	...	"	"
33	Puff Pastry	...	...	...	"	"
19	Faggots	...	...	...	"	"
7	Sprouts	...	...	...	"	"
10	Cod Fries	...	...	...	"	"
18	Mousse	...	...	...	"	"
8	Kippers	...	...	...	"	"
2	Hake Fillets	...	...	...	"	"
8	Steak and Kidney Pies	...	...	...	"	"
3	Plum Tarts	...	...	...	"	"
12	Rissoles	...	...	...	"	"
10	Haddock Steaks	...	...	...	"	"
10	Fish Cakes	...	...	...	"	"
9	Chips	...	...	...	"	"
9	Sliced Beef in Gravy	...	...	...	"	"
12	Breadcrumbsed Plaice	...	...	...	"	"
21	Peas	...	...	...	"	"
23	Beans	...	...	...	"	"
33	Cartons Cheese	...	...	...	Decomposition Blown Condition	
92	Tins Cooked Ham	...	...	...
6	Tins Sardines	...	...	...	"	"
11	Tins Ox Tongue	...	...	...	"	"
2	Tins Crab	...	...	...	"	"
1	Tin Shrimp	...	...	...	"	"
17	Tins Lambs Tongues	...	...	...	"	"
22	Tins Chopped Pork	...	...	...	"	"
12	Tins Jellied Veal	...	...	...	"	"
3	Tins Pork Shoulders	...	...	...	"	"
3	Tins Corned Beef	...	...	...	"	"
6	Tins Pork Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	"	"
1	Tin Salmon	...	...	...	"	"
8	Tins Milk	...	...	...	"	"
34	Tins Tongue	...	...	...	"	"
8	Tins Tomatoes	...	...	...	"	"
4	Tins Apricots	...	...	...	"	"
2	Tins Pears	...	...	...	"	"
2	Tins Peas	...	...	...	"	"

Public Health Meat Regulations 1924 and Slaughterhouses Act 1954

One private slaughterhouse is licensed by the Council to meet the requirements of local butchers.

Slaughtering is still carried on outside normal office hours on two nights during the week and on Sundays. Mr. John Richards, Public Health Inspector to the County Borough of Newport, is giving me good assistance in carrying out the duties of meat inspection on week-ends and during any period when I am away from the district.

The Slaughterhouse is being well maintained and the work involved is being carried out in a satisfactory manner. It is inspected periodically by a Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and this year the Officer concerned expressed his satisfaction with the condition of the Slaughterhouse.

During the year 1,735 animals were slaughtered. The weight of meat and offal condemned was estimated at 1,074 lbs.

Details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the area are as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	204	-	-	1192	339
Number inspected	204	-	-	1192	339

**All diseases except Tuberculosis
and Cysticerci**

Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	92	-	-	256	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with the disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	45.1%	-	-	21.5%	2.06%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	7
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	-	-	-	-	2.06%

Cysticerci.

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally con- demned	-	-	-	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

During the past year the Rodent Control Operative has been active in carrying out treatment of infested properties as prescribed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All business and private properties found to be infested were dealt with and satisfactory results obtained.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewer manholes were carried out during the year. From past experience I can say that these sewer treatments have the effect of keeping the degree of infestation at a low level and this has a correspondingly beneficial effect upon the degree of severity of surface infestation.

A pleasing factor too is the growing consciousness of this problem amongst the general public and we find that apart from the infestation found during routine inspections, people are becoming more co-operative in quickly reporting infestation by rats and mice.

The following table gives details of the infestations dealt with during the period 1st January-31st December, 1966:—

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Properties other than sewers		
1. Number of properties in districts	6317	3
2. a. Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	856	2
b. Number infested by		
(i) Rats	268	1
(ii) Mice	19	0
3. a. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	167	0
b. Number infested by		
(i) Rats	11	0
(ii) Mice	0	0

Milk Supplies

During the year 47 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the laboratory for analysis. Of these 1 failed the Methylene Blue test.

The milk is subjected to two tests, the Phosphatase test and the Methylene Blue test.

The Phosphatase test shows that the milk has been properly pasteurised and that raw milk has not been added to the milk after pasteurisation.

The Methylene Blue test is an indication as to the keeping quality of milk.

The two sources of supply are the Cambrian United Dairy, Marshfield, and the C.W.S. Dairy, Trecynon.

Sampling of school milk is carried out regularly to ensure that it is of a satisfactory standard for consumption by the children.

Housing

During the year 218 dwellings were completed on the Ty-Sign Housing Estate.

12 houses were completed by private development 7 of which were built on the Gelli Park Estate.

There are still a number of sub-standard houses to be dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957, before we can claim that the slum clearance in the area has been resolved.

During the year 42 dwellings were completed by the Council, 40 flats and 2 houses. The flats, all for aged persons were erected at Wattsville—18 flats and 1 wardens house—Wellspring, 8 flats—Ty Isaf, 8 flats and Pontywaun 6 flats and 1 wardens house.

38 houses were completed by private development, 33 of which were built on the Gelli Park Estate.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The main provisions of this Act became operative on the 1st August, 1964. It applies to all Offices, shops and railway premises which have been registered. The definition of office includes all rooms used for such purposes as writing, duplicating, filing and telephone operating. Shops include premises used for wholesale and retail trade, catering premises, certain solid fuel storage premises and shops giving a service such as, hairdressers, dry cleaners and launderettes. Railway premises come within the jurisdiction of H.M. Factory Inspectorate.

The Act does not apply to shops and offices where the only employees are close relatives of the employer, nor to premises used occasionally by employees for a total of 21 hours a week or less.

The aspects of health, safety and welfare, which are regulated by the Act are, cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, the condition of floors, passages and stairs, danger from machinery, noise and vibrations, prohibition of heavy work by certain classes of employees, first aid facilities and fire precautions.

A great deal of time has been spent before and since the operative date in securing the registration of the various types of premises in the district and in explaining the provisions of the Act to interested persons.

Since the operative date most of the premises registered have been thoroughly inspected in order to secure compliance with the various requirements specified in the Act.

Very few premises were found to satisfy every requirement. Written notices and in some cases verbal notices were served in respect of premises where contraventions of the Act were found. Many of the contraventions found were of a minor nature, namely lack of thermometers, first aid kit or Abstract of the Act, and could easily be remedied.

The temperature of 60.8°F. or 16°C. required under the Act will necessitate many visits to premises to ensure that the heating arrangements provided are adequate to maintain this standard.

The table given below is a summary of the work carried out under the Act during 1966:—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number of premises registered during year	Total No. registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving general inspection during year	Number of persons employed
Offices	2	30	17	88
Retail Shops	10	81	58	264
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	6	4	25
Catering establish- ments open to the public, canteens	-	1	1	2
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	12	118	80	379

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspector to registered premises 127

Total number of persons employed ... 379-139 males, 240 females

Food and Drugs Act 1955
Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

During the year much of my time has been spent in visiting the food premises in the district in order to secure compliance with the provisions of the above mentioned Regulations.

The Regulations lay down requirements in respect of the cleanliness of food premises and of apparatus and equipment. With regard to the hygienic handling of food, persons so employed shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect the food from risk of contamination, and shall not so place the food, or permit it to be so placed as to involve any risk of contamination.

The Regulations also deal with personal cleanliness and require that a person who handles food shall keep as clean as may be reasonably practical all parts of his person, clothing, overclothing, or overalls which may be liable to come into contact with food.

During my inspections I found that the standard of hygiene generally was satisfactory and I would say that these Regulations have led to a gradual and noticeable improvement in the condition of all types of food premises.

Infectious Diseases

Where necessary all notified cases of infectious diseases were visited promptly and all efforts made to trace any possible source of infection. This is particularly so in the case of Food Poisoning and Dysentery.

Specimens of faeces are always sent to the laboratory for confirmation of the diagnosis in respect of both these diseases.

If the result is positive, specimens are sent to the laboratory in respect of every one of the occupants of the house. Each confirmed case is followed up until three consecutive negative results are received from the laboratory.

Verminous Premises

During routine house inspection of both private and Council properties, care is taken to ascertain any infestation by vermin.

Any cases which are found in this way and those which are reported by tenants are dealt with by spraying with an insecticide and satisfactory results have been obtained, 28 houses found to be infested with vermin were dealt with in this way and eradication effected.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

GLYN M. JENKINS, Public Health Inspector.

